

THE PARISH OF ST MARGARET'S, INGOL

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all well and still coping? Despite being at home, we all seem to be being busy and joining in with lots of different celebrations and all the services. The anniversary of Victory in Europe Day was just such an example, people all over the parish joining in with afternoon tea at 3pm on Friday 8th and also in all the services that were available online, our service being on Sunday 10th. Fabulous! And from the pictures you sent me, we all appeared to have had a good time.

And it remains a busy time. Next week, Wednesday 21st will be Ascension Day, which will lead on to Pentecost. Traditionally a time of reflection and prayer when we, through prayer, reflection, meditation and action work to make the Kingdom to Come in the here and now.

"For over a century it has been a tradition within in the Catholic Church to pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the days between the Ascension and Pentecost. In the book of Acts, once the apostles see Jesus ascend into heaven, they gather in continuous prayer with Mary the mother of Jesus. Who better than Mary to accompany us as we too pray for a new Pentecost? In recent years many Christian denominations throughout the world have also been praying for this intention through a prayer initiative called 'Thy Kingdom Come'. By joining this initiative we are therefore renewing our desire for the Kingdom of God to be made real in the lives of those we know and love through the power of the Holy Spirit." - A quote from Dr Lynn Bassett.

And just because we are at home, still in lock-down, why should it be any different this year? I will be sending loads of stuff out on the e mail and on the website so that people can still celebrate and remember with me. This year I thought it would be nice to follow Mary's journey through the 10 days between The Ascension and Pentecost, her thoughts, prayers and hopes. Part of Thy Kingdom Come is about leading people to God, His Word and His service, prayers that Mary would have offered, and we are encouraged to do the same. We should begin to think of people that might be ready, or have just started, that journey of faith with Christ and you are asked to think of and pray for 5 people who have started, or who you would like to encourage on this journey; to support them spiritually, physically if you can at all, helping them in every way to start and continue that journey of faith with Christ. There is nothing difficult about this, just make a list of the 5 names and every day ask that God brings them closer to Him so that they may know of His love and goodness in their lives. Prayer is a powerful thing, how often have I seen the results of it? Let's share our love of God and the hopes of His salvation with at least 5 people we would like to come to know Him in this time of reflection and prayer. Bishop Gill says that she has "coming home" on her mind at the moment when thinking and praying about Thy Kingdom Come, people re-joining the congregations, and in some ways we are achieving that by the people we are already reaching in our daily communications and service prayer sheets. So let's take that extra step in these next few days to bring others in to the fold, or back into the fold, bring them home to our church, to our family of God, to know and love Jesus. So please get your thinking caps on, and don't say I don't know anyone or I haven't got time, it can be anyone you

hope good for, from the lad that has caused untold problems in and around the neighbourhood to the nowty old woman who is always rude when she sees you, despite whatever you say and do, guess who are first on my list?????Everyone deserves a chance of happiness and fulfilment in Christ, so let's start right here and now by offering them the opportunity, in prayer, to turn to Christ and be fulfilled. I shall spend much time thinking about who to put on my list, and I am urging you to do the same. Got anything else special to do?? Me neither!

Even though there have been some relaxations in our circumstances, it seems that we are still where we were, locked in and being careful. And with continued isolation comes continued problems. There are those for whom the isolation is beginning to wear very thin, cracks beginning to show and the situation becoming more and more difficult to cope with. We need to be mindful of this and be able to help where we can. I know lots of us are helping physically, getting shopping done for others, getting people to take it round to them, all that good stuff, but what about picking up the phone, or standing at the end of someone's drive and yelling at them, that person who you know is struggling, is feeling particularly isolated and could just do with that 5 minute chat to bring cheer to a long and dreary day. It's not all physical troubles that this virus is bringing, we need to be aware of people's mental health and ability to cope. A phone call, a knock on a window or door, 6 feet distancing of course, and a quick conversation could just help some one to make it through the day. Mental health issues can be devastating, please, let someone know they are not alone and give them a little bit of love to help them get through. If you know of anyone that is particularly struggling and would like me to get in touch, please let me know, I will do whatever I can to help, the least of which will be to pray for them.

So, lots to do, despite being in lock-down. As we begin to think about moving out of this current situation, I ask that you all still take care, don't do anything rash, a trip to the beach on the coach just to air your bikini is probably not the best thing to be doing at the moment. Stay in and stay safe. If you need help, just call. We are nearly there, I feel I can see light at the end of the tunnel, and we have a possible date for returning to church, early July. Not long now, and boy let me tell you, when we can come out to play, what a service we will have! I continue to hold you all close in prayer my dear, dear friends, I miss you all so much, and pray that God's love, grace and protection surrounds you all each and every moment of the day. Do join in the Thy Kingdom Come, a perfect opportunity to do so, we have the time! And if anyone needs anything my number 01772 72 7208, and surprisingly, I am in at the moment!

With my love and every blessing

Rev Rie

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